

# Finland

## Husky safari & igloo building

A hot meal and a warm fire was a wonderful welcome from the freezing temperatures outside on my arrival at Basecamp in the Finnish Wilderness. The camp, a 40 minute drive from the airport at Kussamo, is only four years old and benefits from under floor heating, excellent en suite bedrooms (twin/double & family), dining room, bar, sauna and Jacuzzi with views across the lake.

On our first day we were given sets of full winter gear, all in very good condition, which were ours for the week and then it was an introduction to the first activity of our action packed week, snowshoeing across the frozen lake and local woods. The next morning two guides introduced us to cross country skiing, including how to pick ourselves up from the ground, until we were able to venture out on

our own. Both snowshoes and skis were ours for the week to use in our free time in the afternoons.

Day three was, for me, the highlight of the week, a morning spent with huskies. It was just a short drive to the husky farm where we were greeted and given a short lesson on how to control our own sled and our five huskies, before setting off on a splendid 5 km trip through all sorts of terrain.

**Even for those who are not dog lovers it would be impossible not to have fallen for these incredibly friendly dogs who lapped up the attention and were thrilled to have the exercise.**

In the afternoon we went to a reindeer farm where we had another sled ride and fed them afterwards – a good day out with the animals!

The local town of Ruka is also a ski/snowboard resort in its early development – a perfect place for beginners and I enjoyed a morning

boarding. On our penultimate day we were introduced to the real Finnish wilderness, igloo building (our home for that night), survival skills and some rather unsuccessful ice fishing!

This was a really brilliant week with lots of activity, extremely friendly and helpful staff, comfortable accommodation, good food and first class equipment. Exodus also offer family trips here – a really safe area so parents should feel comfortable leaving their children to their own devices.

22 yr old Lucy B.



Haslemere TRAVEL

# Pure Shores

SUMMER 2008

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Haslemere TRAVEL

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The Greatest Travel Experience™

# Pure Shores

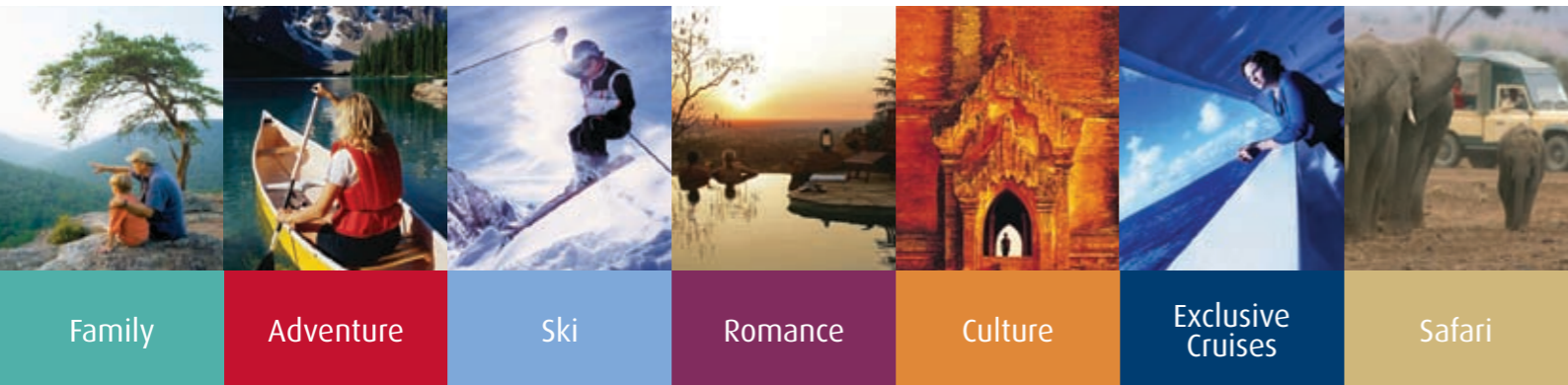
20 years of Haslemere Travel holds many memories, with an ever changing kaleidoscope of geographical and political landscapes, of personalities, perhaps more particularly of incredible changes in travelling habits, technological advances, airport congestion along with low cost flying.

The constant challenge is to maintain service standards when mass market tourism threatens to render the word 'service' meaningless. As it was in 1988, the key is still the same; look for good value when planning your holiday, consider what you and your travelling companions would like to do, what level of comfort and what facilities you require, set your budget guideline, and then carry out serious research with the help of your local

travel company into suitable options from which to choose.

Booking is much more complicated now than it was back in those balmy days in the 70s and 80s, technology may have made life more accessible, but the choice and the risks are far greater. The perceived savings from booking direct and piecemeal are mostly deceptive and often questionable.

We at Haslemere Travel strive to retain the old values of personal service, encouraging face to face communication with those who live close enough to visit our attractive shop in Haslemere, and preferring to talk to those who live further away; email is useful for confirming reservations and details of complicated tailor made itineraries, but the discussions to create these wonderful journeys still needs conversation, and that is what we like best.



Family

Adventure

Ski

Romance

Culture

Exclusive Cruises

Safari



L-R Di, Gemma, Tina, Pippa, Alison, Susie, Terry, Maureen and Andrew

Our reservations team now consists of Tina, Pippa, Susie, Terry and Zoltan, with Andrew, Di, Gemma, Mike, Maureen and Alison as back up.

You can contact us all on: 01428 658777 or email: (name)@haslemeretravel.co.uk

Many of the recommendations that we have made over the last 20 years are as popular as ever; Soneva Fushi in the Maldives, The Datai on Langkawi, Kipungani and Kiwayu in Kenya, Maroma in Mexico, Jamaica Inn in Ocho Rios, Villa San Michele outside Florence, Splendido at Portofino, and while many have been upgraded and modernised, they still retain their charm and style.

So what is it that makes us different, and why do our regular clients continue to come to us for advice and ideas for their next holiday?

Is it old fashioned to talk about personal service, correct choice and good value, rather than just taking the cheapest price?

Can you place a value on booking with a reliable and professional company, whose creed is for honest, unbiased and sympathetic service, whose emphasis is on high levels of customer service and ethical office culture, and whose attitude to resolving discrepancies and problems is to take the necessary action immediately so that the client is not inconvenienced or distressed in any way?

Twenty years after we started in Haslemere, we are proud that we can still offer a traditional personal service, and that we are trusted by so many of our clients around the country with their holiday arrangements. We also like to think that the advice we give is appreciated and respected, and that this will continue over the next 20 years.

With the future in mind we are delighted to announce the arrival of Gemma Antrobus to provide management support for Andrew, Di and Tina, and to take over as Managing Director in November, allowing Andrew and Di to take a back seat, and Tina to work a little less hard; all three of us will however still be very much involved and continue to look after you all, as in the past.





## Beaches & battlefields Kwa Zulu Natal

The coastal forest on South Africa's Elephant Coast just south of Mozambique is a world away from Kwa Zulu Natal's capital, Durban. This area can only be accessed by light aircraft or 4x4s and with only a couple of lodges is true escapism. For qualified scuba divers it offers some of the world's best sites with viewings of shark whales not unusual.

Wilderness managed Rocktail Beach Lodge is the only camp where permission has been given to launch boats. The word 'beach' is a bit of a euphemism as you can only hear the sea: there are huge sand dunes and pine forests between lodge and beach but once there you can walk for miles and miles along the pristine shore.

Its more established sister camp, Rocktail Bay, is about 45 minutes north; activities here include horse back riding from a nearby farm, a great favourite with the two young French boys who were there at the same time, bird watching (a Birder Friendly zone), deep sea fishing, quad biking and forest walks.

The en-suite accommodation at both is simple but comfortable: A-frames at Rocktail Bay and modern canvas tents at Rocktail Beach, complimented with large double beds, fine sheets & towels, generator lighting, bug sprays and torches. There is a renovation project in the pipeline for Rocktail Bay with plans to move the whole camp closer to the beach.

Besides the excellent game parks that exist in this region of South Africa such as Phinda and Hluhluwe, a visit to the Zulu Battle fields lends an historic perspective to this corner of the country. Our journey took us to the battlefields of Rorkes Drift and Isandlwana. Both battles took place in just... 24 hours and the retelling of it was bought dramatically alive by Rob Gerrard of Isandlwana Lodge.



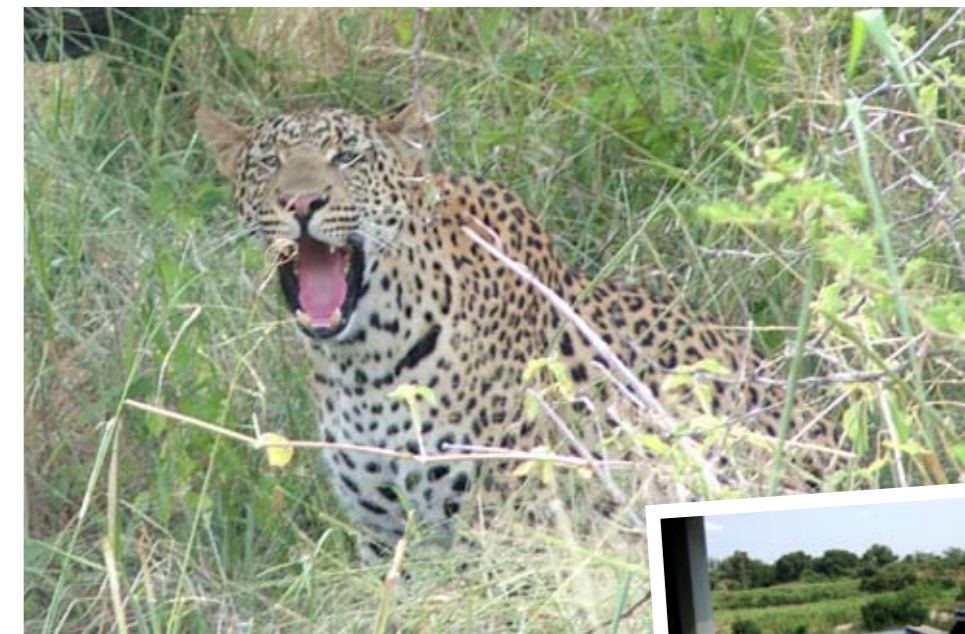
The Lodge is set spectacularly in the iNyoni Rock overlooking the iconic hillside where the British fought valiantly but failed against the might of the Zulu warriors.

The lodge which has been built with the local community very much in mind, has spectacular views from every room and terrace. Good food and company in another birder friendly zone make this a truly great place to unwind and forget.

## South Africa's finest Safari Lodges

Safari lodges don't come much fancier than Ivory Lodge, Lion Sands in South Africa. The six stunning rooms are as contemporary and chic as you can get: two separate living and sleeping areas are joined together by a vast decking area with plunge pool overlooking the Sabie River which flows through the Kruger Park. Huge windows, white painted stone walls and floors, granite surrounds with shades of brown and cream furnishings lend a relaxing atmosphere to both rooms. Thoughtful extras such as a fridge with full size bottles of wine & spirits, bowls of fruit, DVD player, games and books all add to the comfort of these beautiful rooms. Food is an important feature here, bringing city chic to the safari experience at each and every meal. Charming staff, knowledgeable rangers and spotters ensure you have a great time in camp and game viewing!

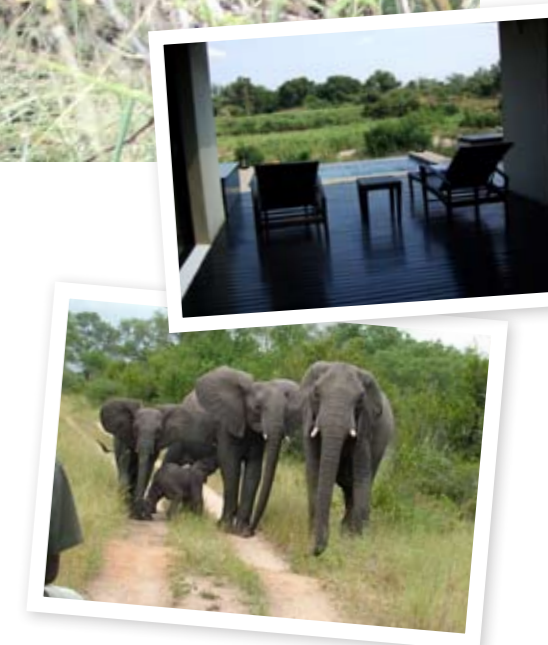
On the Lion Sands property is a further camp, River Camp, two tree houses for the romantic but intrepid traveller and a stunning recently built 5 bedroom ranch house which makes an ideal place for families or groups of friends.



The latter is fully serviced with housekeeper, cooks and stewards: it has a large pool, gym and its own wine cellar – a great party place!

Forty five minutes drive away is the largest and one of the most established game reserves in South Africa, Mala Mala.

This property has its own tarmac airstrip, a favourite place for lion, and three very comfortable camps, Main, Sable and luxurious Rattrays which has just 8 huge khayas with his and hers bathrooms and large terraces with pools. Game viewing here is exceptional, benefiting from the massive acreage and the



mixture of terrains – grasslands, riverine and forest – and with experienced rangers and spotters you are almost guaranteed to see the Big Five during a three night stay.

# Legendary European waterways on MS Amadagio



The sight of the elegant riverboat MS Amadagio raised my spirits after my arrival into a grey and damp Amsterdam. The Amadagio, built in 2006, is owned by an American company, Amadeus Waterways, and with my background experience of river cruising I soon realised that they have taken the onboard cruise experience to new customer service levels.

The ship carries a maximum of 150 passengers in 71 good sized cabins with 4 suites situated midships to aft on 3 decks. All cabins are outside. Those on the lower deck have two small windows just above the waterline, whilst middle and upper deck cabins have sliding

floor to ceiling doors which open onto a French balcony. All cabins come with complimentary mineral water, bathrobes, umbrellas and free internet access. There is an elegant observation lounge with bar on the upper deck. The dining room is on the middle deck as is a small shop, mini library, aft deck lounge and fitness area (with a small sauna).

There is a very large open sundeck with plenty of loungers on the top deck as well as a covered area and a spa pool. It is worth noting that there is a lift that operates between the upper and middle decks and that the suites have full size bath as well as shower.

This was the first cruise of the season and the newly recruited crew, mainly from Eastern Europe, were enthusiastic and made you feel very welcome. Dining is a one sitting, open seating policy which works well; four course dinners are waiter-served with a good choice of beautifully presented dishes as well as a self service salad bar. Breakfast is totally buffet style with an excellent range of cereals, juices, breads & pastries as well as eggs, bacon etc.

Shore excursions are included in the fare and Amadeus have also introduced an audio system for all passengers which enables guests to listen to the guides' commentary up to 100 metres away – this is a great benefit and saves you having to strain to hear what is being said! On the first full day we spent the morning in Amsterdam, and went on a guided canal boat tour admiring the beautiful 17th century homes, charming churches and 16th Century merchant houses. We then set sail down the Rhine towards Germany.

The following day we moored in Dusseldorf for a morning's tour before motoring on to Cologne where the ship overnights and where we toured the 13th Century Gothic Cathedral. Sadly this was the end of my stay on the boat which then sailed past the beautiful castles along the Rhine before joining the River Main as far as Frankfurt. She then doubles back to Mainz for a day before joining the Moselle for a visit to Cochem prior to disembarkation in Trier. A really wonderful cruise for Spring and Autumn.

## Germany Classic transformation of Berlin & Dresden

A fleeting visit to Germany in February was a fascinating insight into the contrasting fortunes and historical background of Berlin, Potsdam and Dresden during the 19th century, and their transformation to the modern era, whilst retaining much of their old charm and architecture.

Direct flights into both Berlin and Dresden from the UK makes this an ideal two centre journey, with the added option of taking the train to Prague to add another interesting historical twist to this area of central Europe.

Our Berlin guide quoted John Cleese with his "don't mention the war" introduction to our first tour of the city, which naturally focused on the contrast between East and West Berlin, the stylish Kurfurstendamm district, The Tiergarten, Check Point Charlie and the Berlin Wall. Our Hotel, the Hotel Adlon, now a luxurious Kempinski, is over 100 years old. The location of Marlene Dietrich's "discovery", it offers views of Brandenburg Gate, Unter den Linden and the Holocaust Memorial, and



is near the Reichstag, where it is possible to look down through the huge glass dome and watch MPs at work!

Next stop was Potsdam, reached by a 30 minute drive, with its lovely palaces, gardens and lakes, Cecilienhof, the old home of the last Crown Prince, and the Chinese Tea House with its famous porcelain collection. We then took the train to Dresden for our next night at the Kempinski Taschenbergpalais, a very stylish property and once the home of the Emperor's mistress.

Nearby Meissen is built on both banks of the Elbe, and in addition to its celebrated porcelain factory, is very picturesque with a Cathedral and hilltop Castle from the days

when it was the old capital of Saxony, before the government was moved to Dresden. We enjoyed a wonderful lunch overlooking the town and sampled some of the delicious local wines.

Back to Dresden we were treated to more examples of this lovely city's 19th century history, its association with Coventry, which shared the same fate, but focusing now on the reconstruction of the central area to its former glory, with visits to the Zwinger, the Semper Opera House, Green Vaults, Frauenkirche and the Procession of Dukes.





When a call came through just before Christmas asking if I would like to go to Bhutan in mid January I didn't even check my diary to see if I was free...and now here I was flying right past Mt Everest, and soon to land at one of the scariest airstrips in the world and on this occasion, with extremely strong headwinds, we had to make a tight turn in the valley – not often seen by all accounts!

The airport is a gem and reflects the traditional Bhutanese architecture; already I could feel the warmth and calm of this tiny kingdom tucked away in the Himalayas between India and Tibet.

Our home for four nights was a beautifully renovated palace, Uma Paro which belongs to the Como group of hotels. Just a short

# Bhutan

## The land of the Thunder Dragon

journey from the airport up in the mountains overlooking the valley, it is splendidly positioned for visiting a lot of the wonderful Buddhist monasteries in the area. The hotel's décor throughout is simple, wooden floor boards, white washed walls with maybe a huge flower painted in one corner, a bright cushion or rug on the dark wood furniture. Everywhere there are traditional bukharis (wood burning stoves) which this January was an absolute blessing as we had continuous snow for two days. The food is wonderful – a fusion of all sorts, from succulent dumplings Bhutanese style to freshly made lobster ravioli! A great favourite was the delicious freshly made ginger tea.

For anyone staying in Bhutan you have to experience a traditional hot stone treatment – you spend half an hour relaxing in a huge hot bathtub sprinkled with soothing herbs, the water heated by large hot stones, whilst sipping ginger tea or iced water and watching the sun setting over the mountains. At Uma Paro this is then followed by an hour's massage which left me feeling on top of the world – truly, truly relaxing and after a day's trekking quite magical!

During our stay we trekked to two fascinating monasteries, including a tiny one which the King of Bhutan visits before he goes overseas, called the Temple of the White Rock (Drak Karop Lakhang): access is usually easy but with the snow & ice it was fairly tricky.

The highlight of the week was our day long trek to and from Tiger's Nest (Taksang Goemba) - at over 3000 metres - with steep unfenced paths and thick snow it was a real challenge but one of the most exhilarating and moving experiences of my life!

Thimphu, Bhutan's capital, is an hour and a half's scenic drive away and at a higher altitude, so that much colder. We were some of the first guests to stay at the newly constructed Taj Tashi hotel in the centre of the city. This is a contemporary hotel but retains all the architectural style of Bhutan, with large bedrooms, several dining rooms, large lobby and bar. It will, I am sure, become a great favourite.

There are many local sightseeing options available including a visit to the tiny zoo where you can see the national animal, the Takin – an antelope's body with a goat's head... It was also market day and I spent a fascinating half hour wandering around the food and veg area: a great place for colourful photos with the



locals bartering for their strips of cheese, bags of chilli peppers and pieces of ginger.

Our evening entertainment in Thimphu was an enlightening talk by a Llama (Buddhist monk of importance) followed by folk dancing outside by the fire – the Llama even joined us for dinner.

My lasting impression of Bhutan is of peace and tranquillity, people everywhere in their national dress, the monks in their red robes throwing snowballs and the gracious and gentle kindness shown by everyone – long may they maintain their independence and their way of life without the interference of the rest of the world.



# Essaouira

## Laid back Morocco

Wandering around the Kasbah and Medina in Essaouira on the Moroccan coast was a revelation and a welcome relief from the frenetic noise and hassle of Marrakech: shopkeepers were friendly without being overbearing, haggling was done with genuine banter and prices were very keen. Essaouira was a favourite haunt of Jimi Hendrix (his song Purple Haze) and the town still has a care free hippie feel.

The storage cellars in the walls of the old town on the seaward side are now shops selling hand woven carpets & rugs, local pottery and

colourful paintings. The battlements above still display the original cannons which came from Malaga and Seville. The fortress by the harbour was designed by the famous French military architect, Vauban, in the 18th Century and is often used as a film set. We visited the harbour first thing in the morning when it is a real hive of activity with the daily arrival of the sardine fishing boats, the unloading, sorting and haggling. Different types of fishing boats arrive throughout the day and by midday the fish market is a wonderful, if smelly, showcase of the ocean's produce.

We stayed at the Sofitel, a 5 minute walk from the town, across the road from the promenade and the fantastic beach. This wonderful tidal bay, with the Island of Magador just opposite, is excellent for windsurfing. The hotel has a good spa and most of the French guests who stay there are on "spa packages".



For a really good dinner book in at the Riad l'heure Bleu, a member of Relais et Chateaux.

A reservation is essential even if you are staying there as it is a relatively small restaurant. We found the food delicious - a mixture of Moroccan and European fusion - and the service most attentive. Another fun restaurant is Chez Sam at the far end of the Port - it looks really weird and scruffy from outside but once inside you know you have found an excellent and fairly inexpensive French restaurant specialising in sea food - try and get there early for an outside table.



My visit to Libya was an amazing adventure taking in the coastal city of Tripoli, the desert townships of Sebha and Germa as well as the desert itself: mind you the adventure really started in the UK when the Libyan Embassy imposed several changes in the visa application process making it a very complicated affair involving the British Passport Office, the Libyan Consulate and the local ground handlers/hotels and guides.

I travelled out to Libya with Abercrombie & Kent who have their own office and staff in Tripoli - they may not be the cheapest but their insider knowledge and contacts are well worth it: museums are closed on Mondays yet we gained entry!

Dominating Tripoli's skyline is the National Museum, a virtual labyrinth of courtyards,

# Libya

## From Tripoli & Leptis Magna to the desert

alleyways and houses built over the centuries with wonderful displays of art and artifacts including relics from Leptis Magna. The museum is next door to the Medina and near the old markets and souks. Nearby there is a good restaurant called Sarayya, and for those preferring a more traditional riad style hotel the Zunit would be a good choice.

Throughout my time in Libya I found everyone extremely friendly and helpful, withno hassling whilst browsing through the markets and medinas.

The highlight was our visit to Leptis Magna, a World Heritage site, 1½ hour's drive from Tripoli - you must go with an official guide as there are numerous road checks and entry to the site itself is only permitted with an officially registered guide. We managed to cover the whole area in 3 hours but would recommend that you spend a whole day as there is so much to take in. The city was founded by the Phoenicians as a trading post

and then occupied by the Romans during the first century, becoming one of the most important Roman cities during the reign of Septimos Severus who was born in Leptis in 146AD. The Amphitheatre which used to seat the 20,000 inhabitants of Leptis is close by: this was only discovered in 1957.

An evening flight on Buraq Air took me to Sebha, the largest oasis and the major city in the Fezzan region. The next day we drove by 4x4 into the desert to visit the lakes in the Ramlat Dawada area: completely engulfed by the Sahara and home to some of the most spectacular desert scenery in the world, it is truly breathtaking. We enjoyed lunch, prepared by our drivers, by the lakes and savoured the peace and quiet of the area - it is possible to swim in these lakes but they are very salty. After our break here we drove back to the Takarkiba and our tented camp for a night under the stars - a lovely evening and a wonderful ending to my brief but stimulating visit to this mostly undiscovered country.



# Greece

## Aegean odyssey



Susie's first visit to Greece was the Mama Mia route around the Aegean islands.



She flew into the small island of Skiathos with 68 sandy beaches - some of the best in Greece. Vibrant Skiathos town has many shops and waterfront tavernas, some with large inviting cushions for 'people watching' in the evening along by the harbour. The further away you are from an airport the more traditionally Greek the islands become.

Jump on the catamaran over to Skopelos, much larger and hillier than Skiathos, great for walking in the summer months or perhaps hire a car to explore all the little bays and villages. A further catamaran takes

you to Alonissos which is incredibly peaceful and part of the National Marine Park - home to the elusive monk seals. The final stop was to the Pelion peninsula on mainland Greece.

The best way to explore this peninsula is to sail along the coast in the crystal clear waters visiting the small villages and ports.

In May it was particularly beautiful with the flowers in full bloom and one morning she was even lucky enough to see dolphins while eating breakfast.



## Home Thoughts

### Spa country retreats

You may occasionally have the urge to jump in your car and drive to somewhere special, arriving at your destination at about the same time that you would be boarding the plane for a far off country, with the prospect of many more hours of travel ahead of you, the climate may not be that much worse, the food may be just as good, and the golf courses probably much better.

We can offer great ideas for holidays nearer to home; there are many wonderful hotels with good restaurants & sporting facilities that we know of that could be of interest for a short spring or autumn break, or a full length summer holiday. Hop into the city for a theatre break, discover a stylish hotel in the country with spa and top class cuisine, or find a traditional hotel by the sea, travel by car or rail, or even consider a real treat for a special celebration by travelling by private limousine or aircraft. For families, couples, singles or groups, active or relaxing, private or partying call us on 01428 658777.



After a long self drive tour of New Zealand Terry suggested that to relax we should take a cruise on the MS Paul Gauguin. We boarded her in Tahiti and cruised the Society Islands. The staff throughout the ship were excellent and it really was hard to find any fault - with superb food and drinks included in our fare we had an amazing experience. There is plenty of room on this small ship with a capacity of 320 - on this cruise there were just 6 Brits.

In that part of the world the seas are a lovely colour and the islands are all beautiful - Tahiti, Raiatea, Taha'a, Bora Bora and Moorea - the ship even seems to have its own private islands and beaches to which the plentiful

# French Polynesia

Afloat aboard MS Paul Gauguin



tenders took you to for wonderful barbecues. We saw so many things we have never seen before, sea creatures, vegetables and fruit.

The ship has an excellent programme of visits - sightseeing, snorkelling etc - but it really is worth booking these up before you go because many were sold out: we were very glad of our vouchers which were already in our cabin on arrival.

Also on board was an extensive library which had a good variety of games and puzzles, a lovely boutique and a very busy spa (though we did not see the interior!)

This holiday earned a 10/10 along with the Maldives and the Galapagos: a first rate experience. This was a truly magical cruise in a truly magical area and we would recommend it to anyone who eschews the good life. It was, without a doubt, the highlight of our holiday. You can take longer trips than we did but the ship is always full - book well in advance!

M&K W.



# Jamaica

## Two of the Caribbean's best hotels

My visit to Jamaica in October 2007 reminded me just how beautiful and varied an island it is with two of the best small Caribbean hotels, Round Hill and Jamaica Inn. The drive between the two hotels takes you almost the whole way across the north of the island – from Montego Bay (with twice weekly flights from the UK on Virgin) to Ocho Rios.

The scenery is constantly changing from swampy mangrove to banana plantations and fields of sugar cane, luxuriant golf courses to misty mountains, the glint of the sea always in sight. As you near Ocho Rios the jungle and mountains dramatically draw nearer to

the coast leaving just enough room for the road between forest and sea. Jamaica Inn is quintessentially colonial but with a modern twist. The rooms, all with large living room balconies are set around the lawns leading down to a lovely private sandy bay, perfect for that early morning dip.

Begin the day with breakfast on your balcony, a delicious rum cocktail at midday, in the afternoon indulge in an open air massage on the waters edge or challenge the barman at a game of croquet. After sunset it's cocktails on the terrace and music until you wander back to your room under a starlit sky.

On the western side of the island, and close to Montego Bay is Round Hill Resort, not only a lovely small hotel with stylish Ralph Lauren designed sea view rooms, but also a haven of truly beautiful private villas most with their own pools (2 to 5 bedrooms) – the latter in particular are a great choice for families.

Here one of the highlights, after a day on the beach, at the superb spa or a round of golf at nearby Tryall, is drinks before dinner in the bar frequented by the likes of Noel Coward (one of the original villa owners), Cole Porter and more recently Paul McCartney – music was and still is an important part of the hotel. The warmth of the locals is so genuine and the gentle beat of reggae music influenced by Jamaica's proudest son, Bob Marley, accompanies you everywhere.

For more information please talk to Gemma who spent several months working at Round Hill or Di.

# Whistler & Sun Peaks

As our last newsletter went to press, our ski expert, Pippa, was in Canada visiting Whistler and Sun Peaks and came back revelling in the range of hotels and facilities in Whistler, the wonderful dry powder snow of Sunpeaks and skiing in the tracks of former Olympic champion, Nancy Greene!

The Whistler/Blackcombe is a wonderful ski resort covering some 8000 acres which offers many great intermediate cruising runs and with 12 brilliant bowls, 3 glaciers, steep chutes, tree runs and off piste back country skiing,

## Advanced skiers will be in heaven.

Both mountains have their own excellent ski schools with Whistler being slightly more beginner friendly. Being only 2 hours' drive from Vancouver, with skiing for all abilities, it makes a great ski and city break with lots of restaurants and bars.

Whistler is purpose built but reasonably pretty with most buildings in an alpine style. Some of the hotels/condos are very convenient for ski in/ski out whilst others have good concierge services. There are lots of activities on the slopes – snowmobiling, dog sledding, heli skiing amongst others. Some of the most famous names in hotels are here including the

classy Four Seasons Resort which really does have the wow factor. The Fairmont Chateau Whistler has a great ski in/ski out position and two Pan Pacific hotels both offering excellent all suite accommodation.

Sun Peaks is a compact resort, 5 hours from Whistler but just 45 minutes from Kamloops, with connecting flights into Vancouver, Calgary or Seattle, it has 121 runs and 2 alpine bowls spread over 3 mountains. All the runs end up in the village, making it a great family resort. The snow here is softer and lighter than at Whistler so good for back country powder skiing. There are complimentary guides here, including Nancy Greene, to take you round the mountains. As well as activities such as dog sledding, they arrange all sorts of things for families such as fondue dinners, snowshoe walks and torch lit descents. The main accommodation here is the Delta Sun Peaks Resort in the heart of the village with a

variety of comfortable rooms: this is linked to the newly developed Delta Residences which offer one and two bedroomed suites. A good 3 star hotel with ski in/ski out is the Cahilly Lodge (formerly owned by Nancy Greene) – a good family friendly hotel with a laid back atmosphere: whether Nancy's memorabilia will stay remains to be seen!

